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FTA news

FOOD, TOBACCO, AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA—CIO

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Back Pay Awarded By WLB at Two Klein Cigar Plants

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JUN 22 1945
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

New York, N. Y.—January 18 was a red-letter day at the D. Emil Klein cigar plants in New York and New Brunswick when back pay checks ranging from $60 to $160 were won by the 500 workers in the two plants. The back pay, which was retroactive to June 12, 1944, covered an additional week's vacation pay; compensation for 5 holidays worked, and raising of substandard rates, by order of the War Labor Board.

Additional compensation, in the form of wage increases, overtime for Saturday work and pay for a 4-hour minimum work guarantee, are still pending before the Regional Board. These points, when settled, will also be retroactive to June 12, the date of the signing of the first FTA contracts at Klein.

Since they have won their Union contracts, the workers here are enjoying 2-week vacations, 6 holidays with pay and a strict seniority system for the first time. Their contracts also eliminated the old system of replacing so-called "defective" cigars and set up grievance and arbitration procedure.

Maintenance of membership and checkoff of Union dues has been won, and both plants have almost achieved 100% union shops.

The WLB has ordered that in the event a substantial change is made in the minimum rate by the Economic Stabilization Administration the contracts can be reopened for negotiation. In addition, the Board is making a study of the cigar industry in the area in order to establish wage brackets.

"This FTA victory was made possible through the unity between the workers in New York and New Brunswick," said Abelardo Baez, Chief Shop Steward of the Klein plant in New York. "The Union has not only bettered our conditions but also improved the relations between workers and management."

Active in organizing the New York plant were Baez; Elsie Huba, 4th floor Shop Steward and Rec. Secy. of Local 273; Carmen Llerena, Shop Steward of the stripping dept.; Mariana de la Torre, executive board member; Rosalia Reina, Maria Tuero, Eva Seiden, Julia Kaschak and Carrie Dulik.

In the New Brunswick plant the leaders of Local 105 are Mary Godrey, Pres.; Mary Chrinko, Secy.-Treas.; Lena Spanick, Shop Steward; Theresa Sebastyen, Steward; Nettie Polgar, Sgt.-at-Arms; Esther Fuzesy, Vice-Pres.; Mary Lonscak, Steward; Violet Seiverding, Steward; Margaret Mandaganaro, Rec. Secy.; and Bertha Halasz, Steward. (See pictures below for both groups.)

Int. Vice-Pres. Armando Ramirez headed the organizing drive in New York; and Int. Vice-Pres. Armando Valdes led the drive in New Brunswick.

Through unity and cooperation, members of Local 273 and 105, employed at the D. Emil Klein cigar plants, won retroactive wage increases, two weeks' vacation with pay, five holidays, etc., in their first union contract.

Above: Executive Board of Local 105, New Brunswick, N.J.: Standing (l. to r.) Theresa Sebastyen, Steward; Nettie Polgar, Sgt.-at-Arms; Esther Fuzesy, Vice-Pres.; Mary Chrinko, Secy.-Treas.; and Mary Lonscak, Steward. Seated (l. to r.) Violet Seiverding, Steward; Margaret Mandaganaro, Rec. Secy.; Armando Valdez, Int. Vice-Pres.; Mary Godrey, Pres.; and Bertha Halasz, Steward.

Below: Klein Shop Committee of Local 273, New York, N.Y.: Standing (l. to r.) Armando Ramirez, Int. Vice-Pres.; Abelardo Baez, Chief Shop Steward and Vice-Pres.; Elsie Huba, Shop Steward of 4th floor and Rec. Secy.; Carrie Dulik; and Rosalia Reina, active in the organizing campaign. Seated (l. to r.) Anna Weselnick; Carmen Llerena, Shop Steward of strippers; Maria Tuero; Mariana de la Torre, Executive Board member; Eva Seiden, and Julia Kaschak.

Raises Won At Kraft Cheese

By Robert Clark, Regional Director

Decatur, Ind.—Local 93, newest FTA Indiana local, won wage increases for the employees of the Kraft Cheese Company ranging from 4c to 15c an hour, and a 96-hour, 2-week paid vacation never before enjoyed. The gains are retroactive to July 1, 1944, with WLB approval of everything the Union and Company negotiated.

People Want ...ace Be Appointed

Philadelphia, Pa. — "Passage of the George Bill would hamstring the Wallace program for full employment and business prosperity. We strongly urge you to vote against the George Bill and confirm Wallace's appointment as Secretary of Commerce," FTA wired to Senator Josiah Bailey, Chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee during the Committee hearings last week.

With 60 million postwar jobs in the balance, all sections of the nation are rallying to support Wallace's nomination. Formation of the National Businessmen's Committee for Wallace was announced on Jan. 26 with more than 100 charter members. "We are for Wallace all the way," they said, "because we believe he stands for policies which mean prosperity for business. Through years of experience we have learned that full employment and high wages mean good business."

CONTINUATION OF FIGHT

The struggle over Wallace is a continuation of the fight "in which the American people won a great preliminary victory on Nov. 7," Sidney Hillman, Chairman of the CIO-PAC said, adding: "This is the time for every progressive American to make his voice heard in favor of the confirmation of Henry Wallace."

Adding their voices to the almost solid support by top ranking AFL and CIO leaders for Wallace were the Nat'l Maritime Union, United Packinghouse Workers (both CIO); Local 100, Int. Ladies Garment Workers Union (AFL); the Indiana Industrial Union Council; the Philadelphia AFL and CIO central bodies and the Chicago Joint Council of Dining Car Workers (AFL).

Wallace And 60 Million Jobs

New York, N. Y. (FP)—Bolstered by a strong message of support from Pres. Roosevelt, Henry A. Wallace warned Jan. 29 that the "economic illiterates" who oppose his nomination as secretary of commerce would lead the nation to "an economic Munich or Dunkirk."

Wallace, whose words were broadcast over the Mutual network, spoke at a testimonial dinner in his honor sponsored by the Union for Democratic Action and The New Republic and attended by 1,200 people who turned the dinner into a rousing personal tribute to the former Vice President.

A brief message from Roosevelt, written five days before he sent Wallace's nomination to the Senate, was read to the audience, which included Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt.

"Henry Wallace comes to the end of his term as Vice President as a man moving to a new usefulness as public servant and a first spokesman of faith in the dignity and freedom of man," Roosevelt said. "The occasion of your dinner, I am sure, is not one of farewell. America, its people and its government, needs Henry Wallace now more than ever before. I count on his aid, his wisdom and his courage in the difficult ways to the magnificent hopes we hold for a world worthy of his faith in the people and of the struggles of free people everywhere, which have so splendidly justified that faith."

Deeply moved by the ovation he received when he rose to speak, Wallace plunged right into a discussion of the Senate battle to defeat his nomination and divorce the RFC from the Commerce Dept.

Outstanding Domestic Issue

"The current situation is not one of personalities, neither is it one of personal prestige," he said. "The one outstanding domestic issue in the campaign was set forth by Pres. Roosevelt last October at Chicago—as 60 million jobs and an economic bill of rights. . . .

"The people who are fighting against me know they are not fighting a starry-eyed liberal or mystic. If they really thought that, they wouldn't be worried. They are fighting against sound principles upon which America can survive as a great and prosperous nation. They know that with me in Commerce there would be a continuous campaign for maximum production, maximum sales, maximum exports, maximum imports. They know I would rally business support behind the Dept. of Commerce to make it the great service institution it ought to be.

"What these people don't realize is that in fighting me they are fighting you and millions like you to the third and fourth generations. Without realizing it they are fighting against the survival of capitalism and free enterprise. The time has come to fight back."

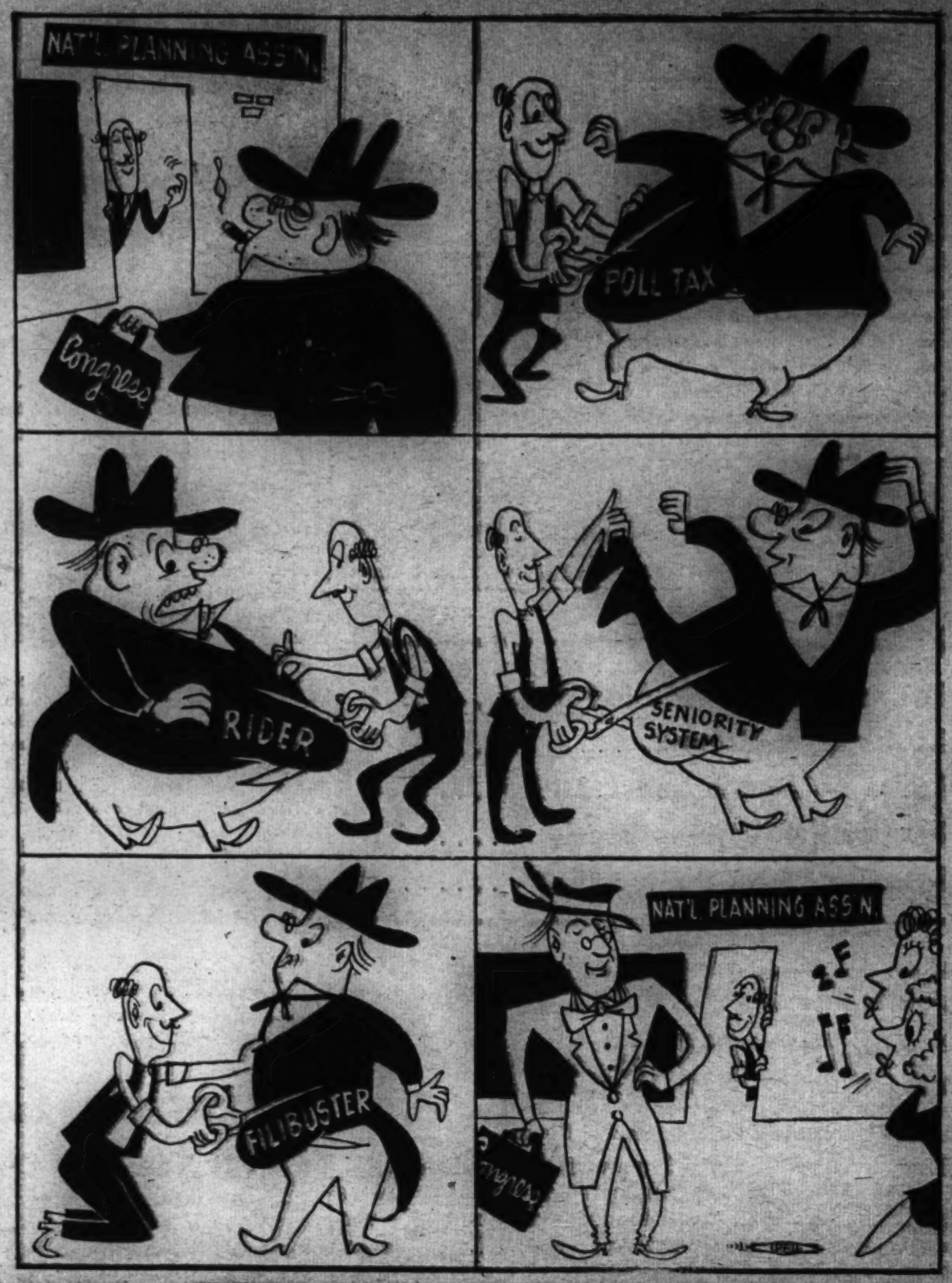
Unemployment Is Dangerous

Lashing out at the apostles of economic scarcity and the economic royalists, Wallace said: "The nation must not be subjected to an economic Munich or Dunkirk. To have 10 million men unemployed is as dangerous to the nation as it was for the British to have 250,000 men on the beaches of Dunkirk. Kaiser, Higgins and a multitude of industrialists like them know the answer and it is the same answer I gave to the Senate committee—full production, full use of all resources."

Wallace appealed to progressives to unite within the framework of the Democratic party and begin organizing now to put the economic bill of rights into action. Under the charter of that bill of rights, he said, "we shall prove that our idealism is more practical in life than that curious mysticism which is called hard-headed common sense."

"There are two issues in this fight," he concluded. "The first is jobs for all after the postwar boom is over. And the second is like unto it. The common man of America can and therefore must be better off in time of peace than he was in war."

Other speakers were Mrs. Roosevelt, who paid tribute to Wallace as a "courageous leader," Shipbuilder Henry J. Kaiser, who shattered the myth that business as such opposes Wallace, Vice Pres. Walter P. Reuther of United Auto Workers (CIO) and Pres. James G. Patton of Natl. Farmers Union.



FROM WASHINGTON

Look at Jesse Jones' Record

By ELIZABETH SASULY, Legislative Director

MANY of the people opposing Wallace for Secretary of Commerce are heaving hypocritical sighs of regret as they point out that they would like to support this fine "idealist" (they are "idealists" themselves), but he just couldn't do the "practical" job. Now, take a man like Jesse Jones . . .

Well, it is a good idea to inspect Jesse Jones' record to see whether his practical administration of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation has been the kind of administration which could be relied upon to make and fulfill plans for 60 million jobs.

While we look at some of the figures which Mr. Jones did not make public, Henry Wallace's statement at a dinner recently given in his honor take on added significance. He pointed out that his opponents fear the scope of his ideas, not their impractical nature.

"They are not fighting a starry-eyed liberal or mystic," he said. "If they were, they would not be worried. They know that with me in the Commerce Dept. there would be a continuous campaign for maximum production, maximum sales, maximum exports and imports," without which may come "a greater disaster after this than after World War I."

The most "practical" achievement of Mr. Jones as the head of RFC was his success in throwing the biggest slice of money put out by the Defense Plans Corporation (a subsidiary of RFC) to Texas, which, by some coincidence, is Jones' home state. Out of 8 billion dollars which DPC spent for war plants, Texas got 647 million, while New York got only 517 million, and California, 323 million.

Do not mistake this for a move by Jones to undertake the important and necessary job for industrializing the South. Mississippi, which is badly in need of industrial development, got a little over 1½ million dollars from DPC or about 81c for each person in the state, as compared with $133.37 per person in Texas. North Carolina got about 13⅓ million, or $4.01 per person; Georgia's 4 million plus came to $1.44 per person, and the 16 million which went to Virginia came to only $5.98 per capita.

The tremendous plant facilities resulting from DPC loans, instead of contributing to the balanced development of the South, have brought about uneven industrialization which was not based on the needs of the states concerned.

It is not impractical or visionary for Henry Wallace to think in terms of the best interests of the entire country—60 million jobs, maximum production at home and maximum foreign trade. You have to think that way to get the job done, and getting that job done will be the greatest practical problem we face.

Tell It to Congress

HERE are a few of the important bills now before Congress. Watch your daily newspapers for current status of these bills, and take action on them at once:

Manpower Draft (H. R. 1752—Replaces May-Bailey-Brewster Bills)

Makes draft-age workers subject to shifting to other jobs by Selective Service. As Rep. DeLacey pointed out, it does not solve many manpower problems due to mismanagement, low wages, worker's fear of postwar insecurity.

ACTION: Tell Senators and Congressmen to support a conference of labor, industry, agriculture and government to work out solution to the problem.

Equal Rights Amendment

Has already been introduced in the House embodied in several resolutions. This would do away with minimum wage and other protective legislation for women. Affects FTA industries especially, where they employ large numbers of women at low wages. May be called up at any time.

ACTION: Be sure to explain to your Senators and Representatives why women in industry oppose this "unequal rights" amendment. Urge them to help bury it once and for all.

Permanent FEPC (S. 101)

Senate Bill referred to Education and Labor Committee; also sent in several bills to House Labor Committee.

ACTION: Tell your Senators and Representatives that immediate enactment of some FEPC bill is a must.

FLASH
FTA Wins 87% Vote At Gerbers

Fremont, Mich.—By a vote of 833 to 96, Local 20 won bargaining rights for production and maintenance employees at the Gerber baby foods plant here on Jan. 29. The new bargaining unit, which replaces the limited one which had been in effect, includes seasonal workers and cafeteria employees.

The year-round workers have been under contract with Local 20 since July, 1940. The majority of the workers in the plant, however, are employed during the long seasonal peak which lasts from May through February, and will now be covered by the Union agreement for the first time.

The Gerber Products Co. produces canned and packaged baby foods and dry cereals.

"Wipe that opinion off your face."

Win NLRB Case At Quaker Maid

Terre Haute, Ind.—The lid was blown off the Quaker Maid food plant here by the NLRB with the signing of a Settlement Agreement cutting the ties between the Company and the company-dominated Food Industrial Union.

Until Robert Clark, FTA Regional Director, brought the matter to the attention of the NLRB, the Company had a closed shop contract with the company-union which provided check off of dues.

Forcing the Company to deny recognition to the company-union, the NLRB Settlement Agreement broke the contract between the two. No longer can Personnel Manager Frank Roberts tell the employees what union to join; nor can he advise the company-union. The company-union won't be able to keep its records in Company files, or collect dues on Company time and property, or attach notices to the workers' time cards, as they used to do.

The rule of the "Food Industrial Union" is ended at the Quaker Maid plant, and FTA is free to go to work.

There's a tough race ahead since the AFL, the company-union, John L. Lewis's District 50 and FTA-CIO are all competing for the right to speak for Quaker Maid employees. However, the CIO is backing FTA up one hundred per cent in Terre Haute.

Set Program To Organize In Citrus

Orlando, Fla.—A campaign to increase the organization of fruit and vegetable field workers in Florida was mapped out recently at a meeting of Local 100 where General President Donald Henderson spoke.

Pointing out the key importance of Local 100's program, Henderson said that the campaign was a contribution to the people of the South and the whole nation, "because this is the only place in the United States where extensive organizational work will be taking place among agricultural workers and you have the responsibility of doing some pioneer work.

"You will have the responsibility, through the education of your membership and the education of people, not members of your organization but who are interested in the same objectives you are, of helping with the CIO to get rid of some of those laws in the state and in the federal government which are harmful—the poll tax law, for one thing—because we have to free all of the people throughout the South if we are going to free any of them."

Begin Campaign to Make R. J. Reynolds 100% Union

Winston-Salem, N. C.—Aiming to build a 100% union shop, Local 22 has gone to work on a well organized campaign. Enrolling over 31 workers at the R. J. Reynolds cigarette plant in the first week of their drive, they have proved that it takes planning. But the most important way of enrolling members is for each member to talk to his fellow workers.

Take W. C. Sheppard and Evan Blakely, for example, two staunch members who have succeeded in enrolling many former members of the company-union. "Slim" Sheppard called a worker this week and told him he wanted to speak to him about joining the Union. The next day, the worker walked into the Union office and brought with him ten signed membership cards from the machine operators in Dept. 64.

JOIN IN GROUP

The ten men had decided to join in a group, and to make sure not one of them changed his mind, they agreed that if anyone backed out, he would pay a dollar apiece to the others involved. Through these ten new members, the Local can enroll many more new members in that department.

PAC is getting under way in Local 22, with legislative clubs being formed in each community.

DWG Cigar Workers Explain Demand For Wage Increases To Community

By Jack Montgomery, Regional Director

Lima, Ohio—"When wages are cut, the community as a whole suffers. 95% of our wages are spent right here at home. Our earnings flow directly to our local people, businessmen and merchants. When wages are raised, the whole community benefits."

This was the text of an open letter to the people of the community from the employees of the Deisel-Wemmer-Gilbert cigar plants in Lima, Findlay, Delphos and Van Wert, Ohio; and Detroit, Mich., when contract negotiations between the Company and the Union broke down in the face of the Company's refusal to improve the existing contract.

"We are determined to get this issue before the public. We are confident that when the public is told that 50% of our cigar machine operators face a wage cut as a result of the recent OPA order raising the retail price of cigars, they will back us up."

UNION DEMANDS

At recent negotiations with the Company, the Union Negotiating Committee requested two weeks' vacation with pay, night shift differentials, a 65c minimum, and piece work prices that will guarantee average earnings 20% above the minimum guarantee. This conforms with the program worked out by the Tobacco Panel at the Union's Fifth National Convention.

Opposing the Union's stand, the Company proposed that wages be frozen at their present level for another year, and that a 15-day escape clause for Union members become effective immediately.

The dispute has been certified to Conciliator Hugh D. Friel.

NEGOTIATORS

Representing the Union were Jack Montgomery, Regional Director; Sybil Neff, Pres., Local 72; Genevieve Cook, Chief Shop Steward, Local 71; Thelma Miller, Pres., Local 73; Sally Sullivan, Pres., Local 70; Nell Fox, Pres., and Minnie Duckro, Chief Steward, Local 69; Sophie Cichoracki and Hattie Sullivan, Local 58.

The public must be made conscious that Labor's fight to maintain and improve existing wages is the guarantee of full employment in the post war period. In the cigar industry, even in the face of substantial wage increases won by the Union in the past few years, wages are still pitifully low and inadequate.

Local 22 Launches Big "March of Dimes" Drive

Winston-Salem, N. C.—Local 22 launched a drive to raise money to aid the victims of Infantile Paralysis in cooperation with the Forsyth County Chapter of the National Infantile Paralysis Association's "March of Dimes" campaign, it was announced by Ralph B. Carmichael, County Chairman of the drive.

A campaign to collect funds to fight this crippling disease was mapped out last Saturday at a huge meeting sponsored by the Union. "March of Dimes" contribution boxes were placed in all rooms of Local 22's headquarters, and envelopes for the collection of contributions were distributed to the membership. These envelopes will be sent to President Roosevelt's Birthday Fund.

Each year in the month of January, the Infantile Paralysis Association holds a campaign to raise money to carry on the work of fighting the disease and curing the victims of the disease. The drive is ended at President Roosevelt's Birthday Ball.

Each year thousands of young boys and girls are given treatment and are taught to walk again as a result of the funds that are raised.

ORGANIZING PLAN

It was agreed that at the outset, organization be confined to those groves and in those counties where the membership is now working. A director for Local 100 will be appointed by the International the first of February.

By a unanimous vote of the delegates, Mrs. Leona Stockton was elected Secretary of the Local, and Coleman Bady, Treasurer. The following members were elected to the Executive Board: Taylor Sneed, Sam Carter, Roscoe Lacy, Arthur Piner, Lonnie Thomas, Clarence Walton, C. J. Warren, Manzel Mitchell, Nathan Cohen and Thomas Evans. Roscoe Lacy and Lonnie Thomas were appointed Co-Chairmen of the Executive Board until the Director arrives.

Dancing and political action found a happy stamping ground to the music of the "Famous Night Hawks" in Charleston, S.C. on January 9. Shown here is the Entertainment Committee of Local 15 which was responsible for the success of the dance: (Reading l. to r.): Mary Carter, S. B. Graham, Issac Gaillard, Irena Reid, Chairman John Cummings, Delphine Brown, Isaiah Bennett, Corrine Oakley, and (seated) Joseph R. McKenzie, Vice-Pres. of Local 15.

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International Labor Unity Vital For Peace, Says CIO Pres. Murray

As trade union leaders from 42 countries meet in London on Feb. 6, FTA News presents the following article by CIO President Philip Murray on the need for solid working unity among the trade unions of all the United Nations. This article was written for "War and the Working Class," official trade union publication of the Soviet Union.

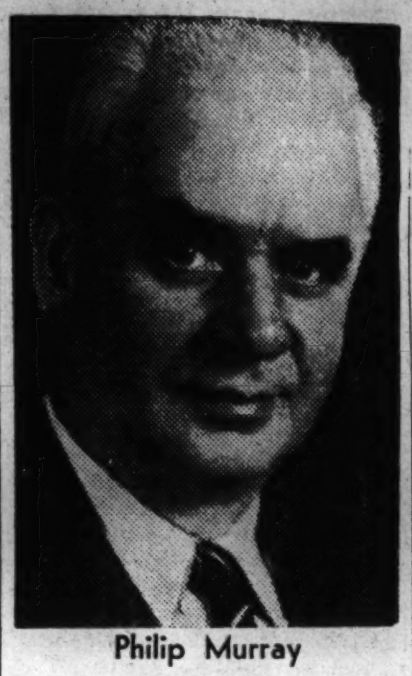
By PHILIP MURRAY

IT IS a source of deep satisfaction to me to have this opportunity to speak to the workers of the Soviet Union through this magazine, the official organ of their trade unions. Workers in free countries the world over, and more especially those who are members of trade unions, are united by a great common bond — the fight they are waging against Fascism and Fascist aggression.

In the United States, as in the Soviet Union and Great Britain, working men and women have sent their sons and daughters to the fighting fronts, while they themselves have manned the production front. In the Soviet Union this has been done under conditions of extreme hardship — and the heroic achievements of Russian workers have stirred the world to admiration no less than the magnificent exploits of the Red Army.

Nor has participation in the fight against Fascism been confined to the workers in those countries which retained their freedom. As country after country fell to the enemy and became subjugated to the Nazi war machine, the workers of these countries through their trade unions became the backbone of resistance movements.

The story of their heroism is only now beginning to be revealed as the armies of the United Nations move forward to liberate Europe. Everywhere these armies are aided by workers who never yielded to Nazi slavery. The story is the same whether the country be France, Belgium, Holland, or the recently liberated territories of the Soviet Union.



Philip Murray

Representatives of the Congress of Industrial Organizations recently had the privilege of visiting the fighting fronts in Europe and returned with first-hand accounts of the part trade union members were playing in driving the Fascists from their invaded homelands.

Labor's Obligation

ORGANIZED labor throughout the world has made such an important contribution to winning the war, and especially in the occupied countries such sacrifices, that it has a vital stake in securing a just and lasting peace and in insisting on the complete eradication of Fascism. Trade unions have the obligation to work for better standards of living and a more abundant life on an international as well as national scale.

It was with a solemn realization of this obligation that the Congress of Industrial Organizations, at its 7th constitutional convention held in November of this year (1944), passed a resolution on international labor unity which declared in part that "the CIO supports the project of a new, single, powerful international labor body that shall include all the unions of free countries on a basis of equality, excluding none and relegating none to a secondary place, and be capable of defending the interests of the common man."

The convention implemented this statement by endorsing my acceptance of the invitation of the British Trades Union Congress to attend both a preliminary conference in London on December 4 of representatives of the British Trades Union Congress, the Soviet Union and of the United States, and the full conference in the same city early in January of next year.

It is a source of very great satisfaction to me and to the Congress of Industrial Organizations that such an international labor conference is being called, though the date has now been advanced from January to February. Some two years ago the officers of the Congress of Industrial Organizations made formal representations to the officials of the British Trades Union Congress asking for a world meeting of labor. Such a meeting was projected for the month of June, 1944, but had to be cancelled because the invasion of Western Europe was then at its height.

Need For Conference

AS THE war in Europe enters its final phase and defeat of Nazi Germany is assured, there is urgent need for the convening of an international labor conference and the speedy establishment of a continuing international labor organization which shall include all the nations of all free countries.

Already representatives of the various governments in the United States are meeting to discuss and lay preliminary plans for the final peace settlement and the formation of an international organization to maintain a just and lasting peace. Such meetings as those held at Bretton Woods and Dumbarton Oaks are evidence of the desire on the part of the nations participating to maintain and extend the unity which has developed in the course of the war.

The labor movements of these countries are no less concerned with the maintenance of that unity and there must be labor representation at such conferences in the future and at the final peace settlement. It is therefore imperative that the forthcoming labor conference accept as its major task the development of a truly representative international labor organization which can speak for organized labor on a world scale.

World Dependence

THE trade union movement in any country is dedicated to raising the standards of living for its members and for all workers. Organized labor realizes, however, that rising standards of living in one country cannot endure if based on lowered standards and exploitation of workers elsewhere in the world. The Congress of Industrial Organizations gave expression to this belief as part of its foreign policy adopted by the Executive Board in June of 1944. In addition to calling for the preservation and strengthening of the United Nations coalition after the war and into the peace, and for the establishment of a general international organization open to membership by all peace-loving states, large and small, we said:

"Lasting peace is impossible in a world plagued with poverty, unemployment and economic security. We, therefore, urge the establishment of international machinery to make long term credits available to industrially backward nations, without political strings, so that they may create an industrial economy for themselves which will raise the living standards and provide economic security for their people.

"Each nation must be afforded full and adequate assistance to develop its economy and utilize its resources for the benefit of its people and thus assure to all the people of the world the enjoyment of the Four Freedoms, and the right of all workers to organize and join unions of their own choosing without any distinction by reason of race, creed or color, or national origin."

This statement indicates briefly some of the problems which will face the world at the conclusion of the war: rehabilitation of devastated areas, opportunity for industrialization of backward countries, assurance to the people of liberated countries of the right to choose their own governments, complete eradication of Fascism, punishment of war criminals, and the erection of safeguards against the emergence of international cartels. Labor has a deep concern with all these problems and will want to take part in working out their solutions. The representatives at the London conference will undoubtedly work out programs and policies which will have the support of the majority of workers the world over.

Must Have Program

TO implement such programs and policies a vigorous international labor body is necessary. Organized labor must draw a lesson from what happened after the last war when no such strong representative international labor body came into existence. Labor had no broad international program on which it could win the support of the majority of the

Going To England:

Before leaving for a 6-week goodwill tour of England at the invitation of the British Ministry of Information, four American labor women discuss the trip with British Ambassador Lord Halifax (seated, center). They are (left to right): Int. Rep. Grace Blackett, of UAW-CIO and member of Local 50 Ford Willow Run plant; Organizer Anne Murkovich of the American Federation of Hosiery Workers-CIO; Lord Halifax; Educational Director Maida Steward Springer of Local 132, Int. Ladies Garment Workers-AFL; and Fin. Secy. Julia O'Connor Parker, Local NB 206, Int. Bro. of Electrical Workers-AFL. Archibald McDonald Gordon (standing) is labor attache of the British Embassy.

Spending four days in Washington making final preparations for their trip, the four women labor union leaders learned from government labor officials what they might expect to encounter in Great Britain, and shaped their ideas on what they wanted to see of British war production, union organization and government labor policies in that country.

Each of them was also prepared to answer questions which their fellow workers in England might ask.

Their trip was arranged by the Office of Labor Production, WPB, and by OWI.

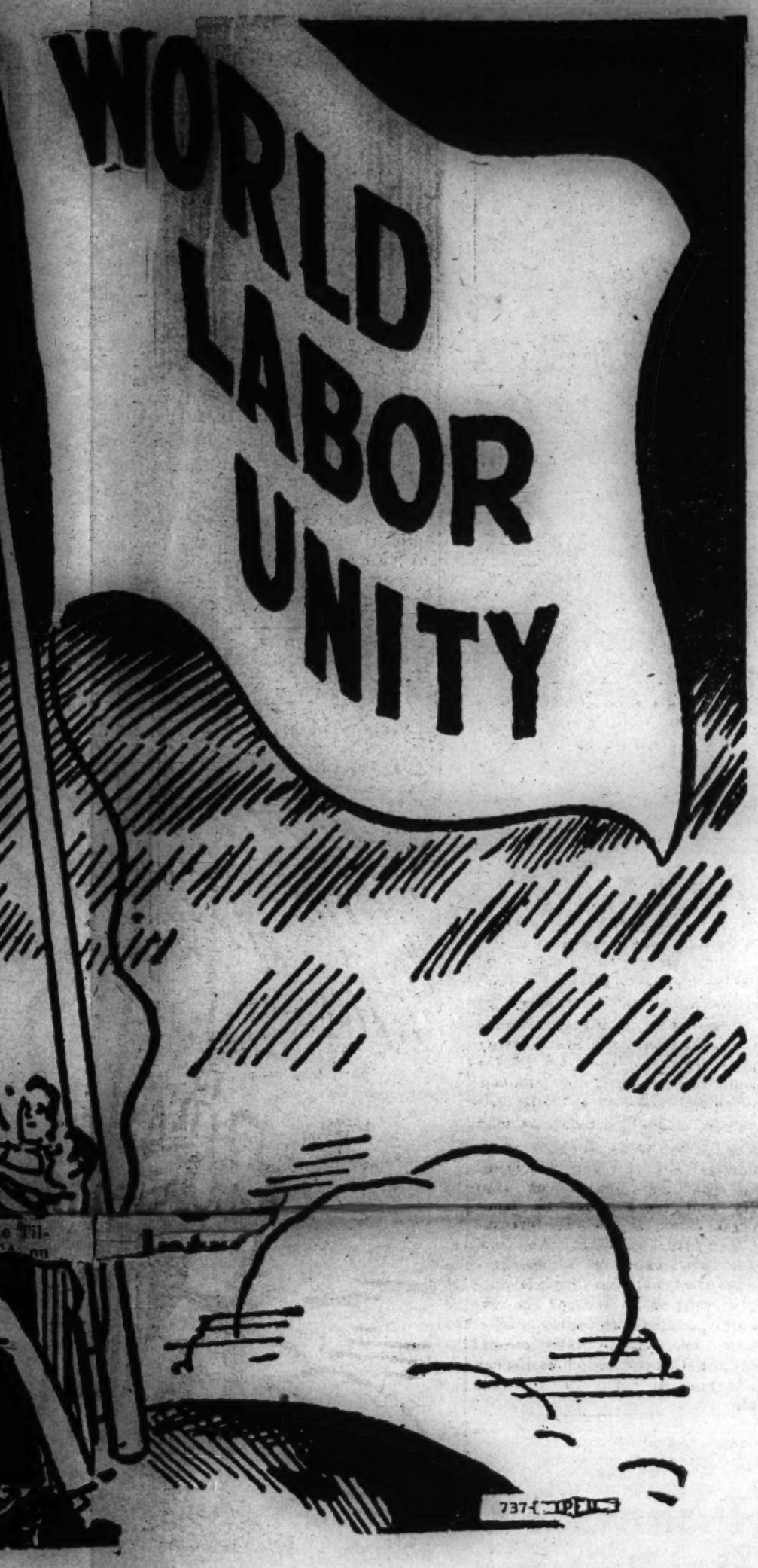
Highlights of their stay in Washington included: Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt received them at the White House, while the British Ambassador met with them at his embassy. They were also entertained by officials of the British Information Service.

Miss Murkovich and Mrs. Blackett conferred with CIO President Philip Murray and CIO Secretary-Treasurer James Carey, while Mrs. Parker and Mrs. Springer talked with Frank Fenton, AFL Director of Organization.

A luncheon was held for them by officials of the Women's Bureau of the Department of Labor. They conferred with Miss Katharine Lenroot and Miss Frieda Miller of the Women's Bureau.

Other notables that the four labor women talked with in Washington were the Director of UNRRA Herbert Lehman; Rear Admiral C. H. Woodward; Malcolm Ross, FEPC chairman; members of the OPA Labor Office and members of the War Production Board and State Department.

On their return from England, four British women workers will visit the United States, on an exchange trip. (Federated Pictures)



people in the various countries. And even within each country, the trade unions were not strong enough of themselves and lacked sufficient support from outside their ranks to stem the growth of the monopolies and cartels which led to the rise of international Fascism.

As this year draws to a close the situation is very different. A united international labor organization will be but the embodiment of the unity which all the peoples fighting fascism feel. The labor movements of the various countries fighting fascism have grown in strength and prestige as they spearheaded the national effort for the all-out defeat of fascism. In the occupied countries the trade unions displayed great vitality and assumed the leadership in resisting the enemy.

Labor is thus given a great opportunity to make its contribution to the building of a lasting peace, continuation of the United Nations coalition, and the betterment of living conditions everywhere. I am hopeful that the forthcoming international labor conference will seize this opportunity and immediately establish the organization which can be labor's voice in international affairs.

Above all, we of organized labor, together with all freedom loving people, must make certain that the peace lasts. Never again must our peoples be called upon to endure the horrible suffering which this war has inflicted upon them. To this end we must be vigilant to see that the coalition of the United States, Great Britain and the Soviet Union is maintained and thereby peace secured.

We must make certain that the German industrialists and Junkers are not allowed, through their business and social contacts in victorious nations, to renew their drive for world conquest.

The agony of those who suffered under Nazi tyranny must steel our determination to build a world whose citizens can live and work in peace.

Tune In

Don't forget to tune in on Saturday, February 17, to hear a report from the International Labor Congress direct from London, given by the CIO delegates at the Congress.

The report will be heard on the regular CIO radio program at 6:45 p.m. Eastern War Time over the Blue Network, as relayed by the British Broadcasting Corporation.

British Unions Work Toward National Unity

You will want to know more about the trade union movements in other parts of the world, in order better to understand the developments of the International Labor Conference. Here is the first in a series which will follow regularly in the News.

By GLADYS CHASINS,
Allied Labor News

DURING the five years of the war the British Trades Union Congress has increased its membership by 50% until it is now representative of close to 7,000,000 workers—a fact which demonstrates the growing awareness of Britain's working population and which lends a firm foundation to the TUC's far-reaching program of domestic and international reform.

While its main attention has been centered on the war effort through participation of its members in government and on joint production committees, the TUC has laid careful plans for the postwar period—its two major goals being the election of a Labor government and the public ownership and control of basic industries.

Controlled Economy

A detailed program for the introduction of a controlled economic system, which it terms "a modern necessity," urges the immediate public ownership of the fuel, power and transport industries after the war as "essential for effective planning nationally." It demands "some measure of direct public regulation" over a long list of major industries including automobile, aircraft, shipbuilding, cotton, shoe, clothing, rubber and electrical appliances.

The TUC has also taken firm stands on housing, health, social security, a 40-hour week and a guaranteed annual wage. Its desire to work closely with government and management to obtain these aims was voiced recently by Sir Walter Citrine, TUC secretary, who stated that "our policy is toward more direction and cooperation with employers and away from the primitive method of the strike."

Closely related to these goals is the effort to obtain a victory for the Labor Party in the next general election, which Prime Minister Churchill has announced will be held soon after the defeat of Germany. Union leaders have been among the most vociferous supporters of a united electoral slate of all the progressive parties, many unionists having expressed the fear that a split labor vote might lead to another victory for the Conservative Party.

Fight For Unity

Among the unions leading in the drive to achieve unity of the Labor, Cooperative, Commonwealth, Liberal and Communist parties are the Amalgamated Union of Building Trades Workers, the Fire Brigades Union, the Natl. Union of Distributive & Allied Workers, the Electrical Trades Union and the South Wales Miners Federation. In addition, 131 national union executives have announced their support of such a program.

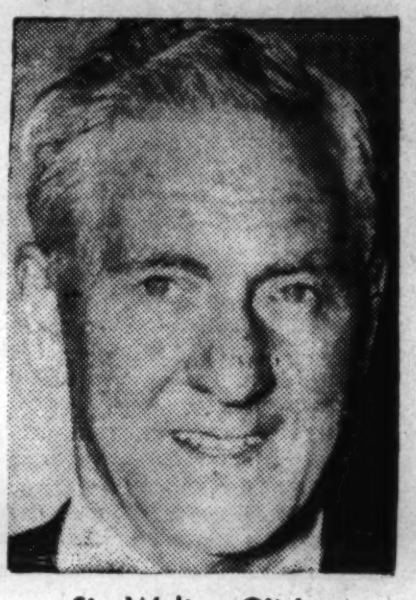
The Labor Party, however, has firmly refused to consider repeated advances for unity from the Cooperative, Commonwealth and Communist parties. All the parties have stated their intention of running independent candidates if the Labor party refuses to negotiate, and urgent warnings that this might lead to labor's defeat have been issued by AEU Pres. Jack Tanner, Acting Pres. Will Lawther of the Natl. Union of Mineworkers and numerous other union leaders.

International Program

Full upport of the principles of the Atlantic Charter and Teheran accord is the basis of the TUC's international program, which charges that the German people cannot be absolved from responsibility for war crimes, urges international cooperation to develop backward countries and strongly condemns international cartels.

The TUC also demands of its government an end to the political deadlock in India and has strongly criticized the "kindly words" expressed by Churchill for Franco Spain. The vigorous protests against British government policy in Greece, in the form of mass demonstrations, factory meetings and sharply worded union resolutions, clearly indicated the desire of British unionists for democracy in liberated countries and their opposition to "interference."

The TUC is united with the Soviet unions in the Anglo-Soviet Trade Union Committee, formed in September 1941, and has recently resolved to revive the Anglo-French Trade Union Committee. Citrine is president of the Intl. Federation of Trade Unions, but large sections of British labor have indicated their support for a new organization of world labor rather than a revision of the IFTU constitution to permit entry of the CIO and Soviet unions.



Sir Walter Citrine

Labor Parley Opens Feb. 6

London, England (ALN) — Two hundred thirty delegates from 42 countries have been appointed to the World Trade Union Conference opening here on Feb. 6, the British Trades Union Congress announced today. The TUC delegation, it added, will be composed of 10 members of the TUC general council.

Declaring that trade unions have found that decent wages and conditions can "only be achieved by the establishment of equal standards in other countries producing similar commodities," Will Lawther, acting president of the National Union of Mineworkers, stated:

"This is one of the very important aspects that British trade unionists bore in mind in organizing the coming conference." Deploring trade union isolationism, Lawther declared: "The AFL, which is the loudest in proclaiming the democratic way of life, refused to attend, following, I suppose, the anti-British, anti-Soviet clap-trap Lewis (John L. Lewis, president of the United Mineworkers of America)."

In underground factories like this, British workers have been producing war materiel for five long, bitter years. During that time their unions increased membership by 50%. Above, in a century-old quarry, 100 feet under ploughed land in the English countryside, men and machines work day and night producing aero engines for the United Nations. (Federated Pictures)

Council Plans Indiana Drive

Indianapolis, Ind.—Unanimous approval of $1.50 dues, continuance of the No-Strike Pledge, and the mapping out of new organizational work, were highlights at the Indiana State Area Council meeting, held January 14.

Delegates from the Indiana locals were: Kenneth Hirschy, Otto Hake, Jr., Derwood Marker, and J. E. Oelberg, Local 44; Dellie Roberts, Local 39; Ray Kocker, Local 93; Ruth and Beal Huntzinger, Elwood, and Robert Clark, Regional Director.

Secretary Hirschey told of the proceedings of the Fifth National Convention, stressing the good work of the convention committees, and the good order of the convention under the Chairmanship of Pres. Henderson.

Chairman Clark discussed the problems confronting organized labor, stressing the importance of PAC and its continuance. He said that no one who had witnessed the fine spirit displayed by the delegates at the Convention could doubt the unity of FTA.

IMPORTANCE OF DUES

Howard McNamara, National CIO representative, praised the leadership of FTA and pledged the full support of the Indiana CIO regional office. He pointed out the necessity for increased dues and its importance in organizing the unorganized. The Indiana Area Council unanimously approved the Convention's action on increasing dues.

Commending Research Director, Connie Anderson, on her good work, the delegates discussed and approved the new Handbook for FTA locals.

Going into the state of negotiations local by local, the Council went on to discuss plans for further organization in Indiana. Points of concentration will be Terre Haute and Evansville.

New Council Formed in Southeast

Winterhaven, Fla. — In line with the decisions of the Union's Fifth National Convention, a new Regional Council was set up at a conference of Florida locals, early this month, covering the states of Georgia, Alabama and Florida.

The functions of the Regional Council will be to coordinate the activities of the various affiliated locals with regard to State and Federal legislation which concerns workers. Such a council will be a valuable aid in helping the locals solve their problems and carry on the kind of program which will develop leadership in the locals, extend organization, and make the Union a welcome and accepted part of the communities in which members live and work.

John Lackner was appointed Regional Director of the Council, Anne Mathews was elected temporary Secy.-Treas.

Delegates to the conference were E. D. Koelman, Leroy Jackson, Juanita Davis, and Jesse Adkins, of Local 4A; William Fischer, Dorothy Ellis, and Willie Manhart, Local 4; Hill Hoard, A. Rudolph, Alice Wall and Nell Stack of Local 9; and Sam Carter, Clarence Waltch and Taylor Sneed of Local 100.

General President Donald Henderson, main speaker at the meeting, pointed out the importance of the conference in carrying out CIO policy by laying plans to organize the South as quickly as possible.

"GREAT IDEA OF YOURS, BIDDLEBUP,—NOW EVERYBODY NOTICES OUR POSTED CEILING PRICES!"

Urge FTA Support For Spanish Anti-Fascists

Philadelphia, Pa.—In a letter to all Local Presidents this week, General President Donald Henderson called upon the membership to support the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee's campaign to supply food, medicine, and clothing to the 65,000 or more Spanish people who were freed from concentration camps upon the Allied liberation of France.

These men and women have been fighting Fascism since 1936, and they still hope to liberate their own land—Spain.

"For the most part, these people are workers," Henderson points out. "They once belonged to unions and for that they were persecuted. As trade union members, they took up arms . . . to defend their lives. They are still fighting and, if for nothing else but this, we should help them in every possible way."

A resolution to this effect was passed at the Fifth National Convention. It can be carried out by the Locals holding affairs and cooperating with other community organizations to raise funds to send to the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee, 192 Lexington Avenue, New York 16, N. Y.

Protest Dismissal of Dr. Rainey

Philadelphia, Pa.—"The dismissal of Dr. Rainey from the University of Texas is a blight and an insult to Democracy," declared Int. Vice-Pres. John Mack Dyson in a letter approving the FTA resolution sent to Governor Coke Stevenson of Texas.

This was one of thousands of protests from all sections of the American people who are horrified at the high-handed way in which the Governor of Texas and his anti-labor, anti-Roosevelt pals have been able to suppress freedom of speech and thought in Texas.

Rainey was ousted by a University Board of Regents which is tied up with the largest corporation interests in the Southwest. He was fought bitterly by them for exposing their reactionary hold on the educational system in the State, and for his support of democratic principles. Doggedly ignoring the nationwide protest against the ouster of Rainey, the Board of Regents this week voted 6 to 1 to deny a petition for reinstating him.

The National Office of FTA urged the Governor and State Senate "to insure reorganization of the Board of Regents . . . to consist of men and women of vision, and clear understanding of the role and nature of education in a democracy."

Law Heads Arizona Legislative Council

Miami, Ariz. — All CIO Unions in the state of Arizona met last month to form a joint Arizona CIO Legislative Council to push progressive bills in state legislature. Delegates from four international unions and eleven locals elected Charles Law, FTA Int. Representative, Chairman of the Council; Kay Stern, FTA, was elected Secy.-Treas.

The Council resolved to establish a permanent CIO State Industrial Council on or about March 5. Such a body would unify the various CIO groups along political, economic, legislative and social lines, and would assist in the organization of the unorganized.

In the coming State legislative sessions, the Council will seek amendments to improve the occupational disease laws, and will support Gov. Osborn's proposal for a power survey by the Federal Power Commission.

Green Appointed To Manpower Panel

Winston-Salem, N. C. — Frank Green, Chairman of Local 22, was appointed to serve on the labor-management advisory and appeals panel of the War Manpower Commission. Green is also a member of the advisory council of the War Labor Board.

"Although I realize that war manpower controls are resented by some people here at home," said Green in accepting the appointment, "there is no denying the fact that they save many lives overseas. And, a little inconvenience to workers cannot be compared to one life lost or saved by regulating labor and producing needed materials for the battlefront."

Tiller To Serve On Regional WLB

San Francisco, Cal. — Dixie Tiller, Regional Director of FTA on the West Coast, was one of six persons appointed by the National War Labor Board to serve as a CIO substitute member of the Tenth Regional WLB.

The Regional Board which covers labor-management disputes in California, Arizona and Nevada, is made up of members representing industry, labor and the public.

Calls For Postwar Housing, No Slums

Washington, D.C. (FP) — Natl. Housing Administrator John B. Blandford, Jr., called on Congress Jan. 9 to set up a single, over-all housing authority to clear slums and provide decent housing at low cost to all Americans.

Testifying before a Senate subcommittee on postwar housing, headed by Sen. Robert A. Taft (R. O.), Blandford said living needs of the people have been largely met through the wartime consideration of the federal housing agencies. He urged continuation of the merger to meet "a greatly expanded postwar need," particularly for low income groups.

A Union Member On Every OPA Panel

Washington, D.C.—OPA, through its Rationing and Price Panels, is fighting to keep prices down and to see that everybody gets a fair share of scarce essential goods.

Organized labor can help OPA with this fight by putting a union member on every OPA Rationing and Price Panel.

If you do not have a labor member on every Panel of the Board with which you deal, write to Samuel Jacobs, Liaison Officer of the CIO, Labor Office, OPA, Washington 25, D. C., for directions on how to make nominations for Board membership.

Special Offer! ... EVERY AMERICAN SHOULD READ THE CIO'S OWN BOOK

The First Round

THE STORY OF THE CIO POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

By JOSEPH GAER

Read the History You Helped Make!

"EVERY labor leader, as, in fact, every forward-looking citizen interested in political action as a rampart against reaction, should read *The First Round*. It is both a splendid record of what the CIO Political Action Committee has accomplished to date, and a primer on the important educational approaches leading to political action. I heartily recommend this book to you."

—Philip Murray, President, Congress of Industrial Organizations

How and why was PAC organized?
What are PAC's objectives?
Who runs PAC and who belongs to it?
What is PAC's future?

"The First Round is an uncommon book for the Common Man...'Must' reading."
—Vice President Henry A. Wallace

By special arrangement with the publishers, you may obtain a copy of the special edition of *The First Round* for $1.50, plus 20 cents for packing and mailing. (*The First Round* sells for $2.50 in bookstores.) But we suggest that you place your order immediately while this special offer is in effect.

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GREAT AMERICAN TEAMS
TEAMWORK ALL-WAYS WINS

U. S. RELAY TEAM

The world's record for the 400 meters relay—39.8 seconds—was set by the U. S. team of Jesse Owens, Ralph Metcalf, Roy Draper and Frank Wykoff in 1936 Olympic Games at Berlin.

FOUR HEROIC CHAPLAINS

Symbolizing by their sacrifice the unity of the faiths, the heroism of four Army chaplains who gave their lifebelts to soldiers on a sinking transport and then went down with the ship, was memorialized by the posthumous award of the Distinguished Service Cross.

The four chaplains stood together handing out lifebelts to the men, and when the supply was exhausted, each removed his own lifebelt and passed it out too. Then, as the ship poised for its final plunge in the icy seas off Greenland, the four chaplains, representing three different faiths, linked their arms and prayed together.

They were Rev. Clark V. Poling, Philadelphia, and Rev. George L. Fox, Gilman, Vt., Protestants; Rabbi Alexander D. Goode, York, Pa., Jewish; Rev. John P. Washington, Newark, N. J., Catholic.

The story of their invincible spirit will live as long as this democracy shall exist. For, if the peace is to endure, it must be based on the great truth first enunciated in America that all men—regardless of race, religion or national background—are created equal.

IN WAR AS IN PEACE AMERICAN YOUTH OF EVERY CREED, RACE AND NATIONALITY BACKGROUND FINDS UNITY THE ONLY WAY TO VICTORY

Prepared and distributed by the Philadelphia Fellowship Commission—46

PAC Backs Organization For Lasting Peace

Los Angeles, Calif. (FP)—The CIO Political Action Committee will give major attention to the question of a world organization that will insure enduring peace, Chairman Sidney Hillman told a press conference at the Ambassador Hotel here Jan. 15.

"The main objective of PAC is to help win the war," said Hillman, who recently returned from London where he took part in preliminary talks with British and Russian labor leaders on the February World Labor Congress.

"How many of us here appreciate the meaning of total war?" he asked. "During my recent trip to London, I spent 12 days close to the theater of war. With bombs dropping nearby, I talked with British, French, Italian and Belgian men and women. I found that there's a realization among people of all classes today that something must be done to establish international law.

"The world is ready for enduring peace and we must have an organization for it. PAC will probably give major attention to this problem. I believe that out of this war there will and must come an international organization that will prevent wars in the future. Unless something is done in this field we'll have missed out on practically our last opportunity to give coming generations some sense of security."

1945-46 PROGRAM

Turning to the domestic scene, Hillman said PAC will be active in politics in 1945 and 1946, stressing that his organization's big job in 1946 will be to get full registration of voters. Hillman said PAC-indorsed candidates in the 1946 elections will have to meet these tests:

- They must completely support carrying on the war until final victory.
- They must fight isolationism. "One cannot be pro-labor and against the U. S.," Hillman said. "Anyone who is isolationist is against the best interests of the U. S."
- They must work for the economic security of the American people through full production and full employment.

Hillman's visit to the west coast, which included talks to CIO locals and conferences with the California CIO Council executive board and state PAC, was scheduled to be concluded with a banquet given for him by the Citizens PAC.

Urge Action Against Argentine Fascists

New York, N. Y. (FP) — The State Dept. was called upon Jan. 18 by the CIO Committee on Latin American Affairs to give active material support to democratic forces in Argentina who have been driven underground by the pro-fascist and pro-Nazi Farrell-Peron dictatorship.

Supporting State Dept. policy as far as it goes, Committee Chairman Jacob S. Potofsky insisted upon "more realistic hardboiled methods" in dealing with the Argentine regime. He accused the regime of not only actively sabotaging the war effort but sowing the seeds of a postwar fascism which would threaten American security.

SUPPORT RESISTANCE

The Argentine resistance movement should be given the same kind of active material support as the underground which helped free France and other parts of occupied Europe from the Nazis, he said. The economic base of the dictatorship could be destroyed by imposing sanctions, he said, pointing out that Americans and British trade keep the regime prosperous.

PROTEST STRIKE

CIO pressure on the State Dept. is part of a mobilization of the entire Latin American labor movement to combat the Nazi fifth column centering in Argentina. Pres. Joseph Selly of American Communications Assn. (CIO), who just returned from a mission as delegate to the Latin American labor conference in Colombia, reported that labor throughout South America will go on a 1-day strike Jan. 25 in protest aaginst the Argentine regime.

High Court Accepts Harry Bridges Case

Washington, D. C. (FP)—The final word in the attempt of Atty. Gen. Francis Biddle to deport Pres. Harry Bridges of the Intl. Longshoremens & Warehousemens Union (CIO) back to his native Australia will come from the U. S. Supreme Court before summer.

In agreeing to review the decision to deport Bridges on grounds that he had communist affiliations the Court Jan. 29 declined to permit the Communist Political Assn. to intervene. The case will be argued in March.

Proceedings against the West Coast labor leader began in May, 1942. He will be represented in the Supreme Court arguments by CIO Gen. Counsel Lee Pressman, Carol King and Richard Gladstein.

Locals Ask Re-trial Of Seditionists

Philadelphia, Pa.—Letters urging the immediate resumption of the Sedition Trials in Washington were sent last week to Attorney General Biddle by Locals 194, 273, 18, 638 and the Indiana Area Council.

"The people of the United States do not want those criminals to go unpunished," declared the Executive Board and members of Local 194 in Chicago. "The rest of the world is watching what action we intend to take in the trial of these alleged Seditionists. The enemies of our nation are also watching and waiting. . ."

"We demand the Dept. of Justice to initiate as quickly as possible a re-trial of the defendants involved in the sedition case."

12 Anti-Labor Bills Introduced in Congress

Washington, D. C.—Local unions should raise their voices to prevent passage of an assortment of 12 anti-labor bills which have been introduced in Congress during January.

Three of the bills would ban the closed shop and maintenance of membership clauses, two would draft labor into a work corps for private industry at Army pay. The others hit various issues.

RACKETS AND TENDENCIES

Rep. Sam Hobbs (D., Ala.) is sponsoring: HR 32, $10,000 fine and 20 years prison sentence for "racketeering." It is aimed at the Teamsters' union and other transport workers. HR 1433, barring employment to anyone "associated with" a subversive organization. Subversive is broadly defined to include a group whose "tendency" is to undermine institutions or distort the functions of the government.

OUTLAWS UNION SHOP

Rep. Clare Hoffman (R., Mich.) introduced: HR 428, outlawing the union shop and maintenance of membership. Sets fines of $1,000 and one year in jail terms on unions and employers for violation. HR 429, outlaws WLB power to order maintenance of membership clauses. HR 1337, outlaws union shop and maintenance of membership. Provides worker forced to join may sue union for double damages. HR 1338, anti-strike bill, permits induction into Army of persons engaging directly or indirectly in any strike, slowdown or work stoppage. Also outlaws union shop. HR 1339, bars WLB from settling disputes by seizure of plants until courts have decided 50% of plant production is war goods.

By Rep. Howard W. Smith (D., Va.): HR 338, setting 75c as maximum pay per hour the WLB may order.

MAXIMUM WAGES

By Rep. Jennings Randolph (D., W. Va.): HR 544, preventing non-citizens even after applying for naturalization from voting in or becoming an officer of a union.

By Rep. William Colmer (D., Miss.): HR 1159, putting manpower into a special army supply corps at private's pay on war plant jobs.

By Rep. Sam Russell (D., Tex.): HR 1194, provides universal 48-hour week, outlawing overtime before 48 hours.

By Rep. Henry Larcade, Jr. (D., La.): HR 1276, establishing an army agricultural corps to give big farmers free labor with the U. S. paying regular soldier wages to workers.

New Local

Cairo, Ill.—Newest local to enter FTA is Local 27 here, which received its charter on Dec. 22, 1944.

Members are employed at Swift and Company, engaged in cotton seed and cotton oil processing.

The officers of Local 27 are: Walter Beard, Pres., and Mrs. Richard Anderson, Fin. Secy.

Notes from Locals

New Officers

18 DeKalb, Ill. — Newly elected officers for Local 18 are: W. H. Wheeler, Pres.; William Vogeler, Vice-Pres.; Curtis Dowden, Fin. Secy. and Treas.; Jesse Davis, Marvin Keeling and Verna Askvig, Trustees; Enoch Kittle, Rec. Secy.; Carl Ecklund, Floor Guard; Enoch Royalty, Chief Shop Steward.

Aid Wounded Soldiers

110 Cedar Rapids, Iowa — A collection among the members of Local 110 resulted in the securing of 60 decks of cards for the wounded soldiers at the Schick Hospital in Clinton, Iowa.

By Agnes Dvorak, Reporter

Elect Officers

194 Chicago, Ill.—Newly elected officers for Local 194 are: John Gallacher, Pres.; Booker Mays and Mike Jurcenko, Vice-Pres.; Stanley Surna, Treas.; Veronica Kryzan, Fin. Secy.; Leland Chapman, Rec. Secy.; Rose Wolanski, John Jurgensohn, and Mathew Buchanan, Trustees; and John Schwartz, Sgt.-at-Arms.

"PARDON ME — BUT IS YOUR TRIP ESSENTIAL?"

UNION MEN IN UNIFORM

Take It From Them — American Boys Are NOT Parochial Xenophobes

A LOT of American magazines express opinions about the American soldier that often makes GI blood boil. Fortunately, the GI's overseas have their own magazine called "Stars and Stripes" that gives them the opportunity to speak for themselves. The following article reprinted from "Stars and Stripes" is in answer to Life magazine:

In a recent editorial, Life magazine expressed the fear that the American soldier may return from the war **a parochial xenophobe.**

We didn't know what parochial xenophobe meant either—so we looked it up. What it means, roughly, is a guy who hates foreign peoples.

We've been listening to a lot of Joes sound off about the British, the French, the Belgians and other folks from other lands in which this Army has trained and fought.

HATE EVERYBODY

Some of these birds would make you think Life's fear was fact. These guys see no good in anybody and no beauty anywhere. They hate the British for being British. They hate the French for being French. They hate the Ay-rabs for being dirty. They hate the Dutch for being clean. They just don't give a damn about anybody or anything except the good old USA. "Just wait till we get back there and try and pry us loose again" just about expresses their point of view.

We don't think those guys talk the language of the average GI.

We think they talk the loudest, but we don't think they talk for most. From the letters we get—from the things we see—from the memories we cherish — we think most Americans aren't parochial xenophobes.

SMALL WORLD

Most of us realize for the first time what a small world this is. That all of us are neighbors. That something rotten in Denmark stinks like hell in the USA. Lots of us sense for the first time that our big, strong, young country is married to the rest of the world—for better or worse.

We think some of our worst parochial xenophobes will change their tune when they get back home. Twenty years from now they'll be telling their kids about the dart game in the pub at Little Piddlehinton. About the cheers and beers they garnered in Brittany and Belgium. About the little old woman who came out of the rubble at St. Lo and murmered "Nos Liberateurs!"

Eager Beaver

MAIL CALL

"I WISH to thank you for the wonderful wallet you sent," **writes Pvt. Carmen A. Iannello to his buddies back in Local 80.** "It was an ideal gift and something to look at and say, 'The folks back home are thinking of us boys.'

"I'll be hoping for the day when I can put some good old American money in it. The French money has to be folded to fit in our American-made wallets.

"Thanks a million for being so thoughtful.

"Hoping to see you all real soon."

"I RECEIVED the present for Christmas that the Local sent to me," writes Pvt. Sherman Baker, Local 80 member, from the South Pacific. "I was glad to get the wallet; it came in handy over here.

"Thanks to my Union, I'll return to work after the war. I sure am glad that I belong to the CIO.

"I've been receiving FTA NEWS often, and am glad to know what the CIO is doing back home. Keep up the good work, and keep on sending the newspaper. I enjoy reading it."

QUIPS

The Office of Defense Transportation says there will be no more extra passenger trains to and from pleasure resorts.

Some of our wealthier citizens who have already managed to get to Florida may be surprised to find themselves frozen there for the Winter.

• • •

The new Soviet offensive cracked through Nazi defense lines like a meat cleaver through an egg, said one military expert.

Through a rotten egg.

• • •

In San Diego, Calif., Petros Protopapadakis made out an application to change his name to Petros FDR Protopapadakis. (FP)

THE HISTORY OF AMERICAN LABOR

Birth Of Political Action

By DR. PHILIP FONER

(This is the second of a bi-weekly series on American labor history written for Federated Press and FTA NEWS by Dr. Foner, instructor at the Jefferson School of Social Science in New York and author of a number of works on American history.)

CRIES of rage arose from the reactionary press during the recent Presidential campaign because labor was undertaking political action on a nationwide scale. The rage was understandable enough but there was simply no truth at all in the cries that such action by labor was distinctly un-American and utterly unprecedented.

As early as the 1820s American labor was active on the political front, at the same time it was engaged in battling for shorter hours, higher wages and union recognition. Workers at this stage in our history had already discovered that there were many problems confronting them which could not be solved through strikes and collective bargaining alone.

Free Schools

They wanted to have their children educated, for example, but there were no public schools in existence and only the wealthy could afford to send their sons to private academies. They wanted to see an end brought to the vicious system of imprisonment for debt, at the same time that employers were permitted conveniently to forget to pay their workers for labor performed.

More Democracy

They wanted to have the burden of taxation placed on those who could most afford it and they wanted greater democracy in government, national, state and local. And they recognized that only through political action would they be able to obtain the laws with which to transform their desires into realities.

Not until the 1820s could labor do much to obtain such legislation for most workers, owing to property qualifications for voting, were unable to cast ballots. But during the era of Jeffersonian and Jacksonian democracy, labor obtained the ballot and, together with small farmers, began to take steps to win progressive legislation.

First Labor Party

In 1828 the first American labor party was formed in Philadelphia. Significantly, it was by the Mechanics Union of Trades Associations, the city central labor body.

By 1834 independent labor parties existed in more than 75 communities in the country, in a number of cases representing joint action on the part of unionists in the cities and farmers in the rural districts. These workingmen's parties did not last long, but before they passed from the political scene they contributed nobly to our democratic heritage.

Political Gains

As a result of the pressure exerted by labor at the ballot box, laws were obtained in a number of states establishing free public schools, abolishing imprisonment for debt, providing for mechanics lien laws to prevent employers from depriving workers of their wages and establishing more democratic features in government.

Finally, labor's political action during these years had much to do with the handing down of court decisions permitting workers to organize into unions, by setting aside the doctrine that unions were conspiracies and therefore illegal. In short, political action went hand in hand with union action; unionism itself was being strengthened by the very same means by which important progressive legislation was being won.

ARE all of your local's members in the service on the FTA News mailing list? If not, send their names and addresses to the News today!

JOHNNIE JONES
by DON RICO
THE TRAP IS SET! JUMBO HAS USED ANNIE TO DECOY JOHNNIE INTO A FIGHT WITH HIM SO JUMBO CAN BEAT THE YOUNG SEAMAN INTO REVEALING HIS SAILING TIME---
WHY--YOU YOUNG PUNK--- I'LL TEACH YOU TO WALK OUT WITH ONE OF MY GIRLS!
TA-TA, SUCKER!
I'M BEING ROOKED!
OKAY-- IF YOU WANT TO PLAY ROUGH!
CRACK!
I'LL OWE YOU FOR THIS BOTTLE, WAITER!
OOOOH!
-- GOTTA PUT YOUR BOSS OUTTA HIS MISERY!
POW!
WELL--GOTTA GO NOW! THIS PLACE IS TOO QUIET!
BUT THINGS WON'T BE QUIET FOR JOHNNIE TOO LONG--HE'S A MAGNET FOR TROUBLE---BESIDES, JUMBO'S GOING TO BE AWFUL MAD WHEN HE WAKES UP----